

SECRET

DDI Chrono

:

DDI #00639-85

5 February 1985

NOTE TO:

Director, EURA

25X1

FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: East European Communist Parties

One issue that it seems to me might be worth exploring in terms of the state of play in Eastern Europe is the status of Communist Parties there. One lesson from Poland is how hollow and weak the party was and at the first serious challenge, it essentially collapsed. Would it be worth looking at the Communist Parties in other East European states to see how strong they are? For example, I would guess that the parties in Hungary may be reasonably strong, but that the parties in both Czechoslovakia and Romania are fairly weak. What are the implications as these states confront additional economic pressures of a ruling party that has little or no support? How accurately do we think the Soviets perceive these weaknesses and how does it affect their attitudes toward these parties? In these states, is the military an alternative to the party (as in Poland) and what are the implications for party-military relations?

25X1

RG.

Robert V. Gates

DDI/RMGates/de

25X1

DISTRIBUTION:

- 0 - D/EURA
- 1 - ADDI
- 1 - DDI Action Log
- 1 - DDI Registry
- 1 - DDI Chrono

:

SECRET

25X1